

July 20, 1958

Dr. George Lefevre  
Genetic Biology  
National Science Foundation  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear George:

I thought you would be interested to know my negotiations with Stanford have reached a successful conclusion, so that I will move out there next year for the organization of a Department of Genetics in the medical school and for a close research association with Arthur Kornberg and the Department of Biochemistry.

There is still some uncertainty on the detailed plans. They range from our moving directly to Stanford January 1, 1959 to a final move as late as July 1, 1959. One difficulty is that the intended laboratory facilities (and they promise to be first rate) will not be completed until July, although there are some expedient alternatives. We are thinking seriously of remaining here until April 1, then spending three months working with Luca Cavalli at Pavia, Italy just before moving. (He was here three months this spring and we had a very exciting and productive time of it.)

As the best way to cope with these uncertainties, I am asking Stanford to make my appointment nominally effective as of January 1 and I am writing up a renewal application to take effect that date. However, the salary budget for the first year is adjusted to take account of the expectation that we will not be operating at full steam at Stanford for several months. At the very least, this arrangement will help us make advance preparations so that we can begin our work smoothly as soon as possible after our arrival. If we do move early we will still be able to manage by drawing against the entire allocation. Obviously you are not impelled to take formal notice of these remarks until you received the endorsed application. I am going to be in some difficulty to have this ready on time, as we are leaving for the Congresses next week, and won't be back until September 11. However, the last week of this itinerary will be at Stanford so I can be quite sure you will at least get the application and budget pages in ample time, and if I don't manage to finish the project outline in the next few days you will have it within a couple of days after the September 15 deadline. I will of course be east for the Genetics SS meeting at the NIH (Sept 25-26) and will count on seeing you there then.

As to the Wisconsin lab, I imagine I will be responsible for it through June 30, and will be 'on leave' from my Wisconsin appointment through then, regardless of our travel schedule. There are a couple of assistants and students who will not come out to Stanford (finishing up etc.) or at least not until July. They can be taken care of with university funds together with the residue in my present grant. Would you consider this a formal request to extend the duration of this grant (without increase of funds) to June 30, 1958? If you need written endorsement of such a request from the dean or president, I can see you have it in September. This arrangement will make it possible to avoid the problem of terminating an unspent grant and retrieving funds that may already have been disbursed to one institution.

I am rather astonished at how much more money I will have to ask for in order to maintain my present scale of activity. Partly this arises because the Rockefeller Foundation (having patiently considered their support as priming a budding new operation for ten years) is withdrawing their support for the research project. (There is a hopeful expectation that they will continue to help the school's finances and the foundation of the department.) Then, the salary scales are a bit higher as time goes on, and at Stanford compared to Wisconsin, and also some adjustment has to be made for the large tuition fee our graduate student assistants will be liable for. Our request for a five year term of support will therefore approximate \$100,000.

The office here will promptly forward mail if so marked; or you could catch me at the Stockholm microbiology congress. We couldn't get return space in time for the Montreal congress and have to forego that. If anything comes up that I could ~~possibly~~ profitably deal with in company with the Stanford administration you might address it to me c/o Dean Robert Alway, Stanford Medical School, Stanford, Calif. where I can pick it up in September. We are planning to fly directly out there from London without stopping over.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Chairman, Department of  
Medical Genetics